

Woonsocket Technology Subcommittee Meeting
June 14, 2016 @ 8:00 AM
McFee Administration Building, 108 High Street Woonsocket, RI 02895

Present: P. McGee, J. Chan-Remka, A. Graham, B. Peryea, M. Sexton, S. Seale, H. Neil, T. Wheeler, V. Gonzalez, A. Holt, S. Fontaine, AJ O'Connell, T. Brown, T. Connors, J. Barrow

The meeting began at 8:15 AM.

Current State of Technology in the District

High school and middle schools will have computer based PARCC testing next year. The elementary level will have another year of paper and pencil PARCC testing and should be ready for computer based testing the following year.

At the Middle Schools J. Remka has been working on implementing a blended learning program into the middle school. Staff will attend Summit Base Camp training this summer and this program will be piloted in the Woonsocket School District. 75 laptops are being donated to the district and WED will purchase 25 laptops to implement this 1:1 model of personalized learning for 100 students in 7th grade.

Evaluation of the 1:1 program will include a control group that can help measure students' success. The control and qualitative data will help to track progress immediately. At the end of the year the PARCC test may also provide data which can be compared with the following year.

Apex is finishing installation of new switches and network drops at the High School. Work will then begin at the Career Center. Routing, internet connectivity, firewall, and content filtering will be managed by OSHEAN.

Network closets need to be secured. Many of the network closets need air conditioning units for proper air control. These items will be discussed with P. Fontaine.

Discussion of Technology purchasing plan

Price quotes and spec sheets were provided to the subcommittee for review and consideration of the purchase of technology equipment. School Committee members S. Seale and V. Gonzalez would like to be included in the selection of pre-pilot equipment for the schools. For best purchase option more than one computer cart is needed for pilot testing. The committee needs to have a mechanism in place to weigh pros and cons of purchasing decisions. S. Thibeault will email price quotes to subcommittee for review.

S. Seale requested visual benchmarks/technology dashboards on the current state of technology in the district, progress on upgrades including infrastructure, switches and drops, inventory of hardware initiatives, and inventory of the teachers that have and need laptops.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:39 AM.